AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 were pending at the time of the Office Action.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11-12, and 16 are amended, claims 19-22 are canceled, and claims 23-26 are new.

Claims 1-18 and 23-26 remain pending.

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a membrane including a fiber optic plate configured to direct light from a first side of the membrane to a second side opposite the first side, the first side positioned adjacent to a touchscreen display;

a button structure disposed on the second side ~~one surface~~ of the membrane; and

a nib corresponding to the button structure and disposed on the first side ~~another surface~~ of the membrane, wherein the apparatus is configured to be operatively coupled to [[a]] the touchscreen display so that when a user applies a force to the button structure the nib contacts the touchscreen display so as to activate a virtual button being displayed by the touchscreen display.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the membrane comprises a flexible and resilient material.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure comprises a translucent portion.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure is configured as a remote control. ~~the membrane comprises a fiber optic plate.~~

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure comprises a haptic structure configured to emit an audible sound.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure is one of a plurality of button structures disposed on the membrane, wherein the plurality of button structures implement a QWERTY keyboard.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a lighting device to selectively illuminate the button structure, the lighting device including at least one light emitting diode (LED) and a power source.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a redirector ~~device~~ to change a direction of an infrared beam directed onto the redirector ~~device~~.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the membrane is sized to be press fitted into a recessed portion of a mobile electronic device, wherein the membrane is disposed within the recess to position the nib in propinquity with the touchscreen display.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a sleeve to contain a mobile electronic device that includes the touchscreen display, wherein the sleeve is to position the nib in propinquity with the touchscreen display.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure and nib are slidably fitted to a guide slot in the membrane, the guide slot constraining the button structure and nib along a guide slot path.

12. (Currently amended) An apparatus to be operatively coupled to a touchscreen display for operating a virtual button displayed by the touchscreen display, the apparatus comprising:

a membrane; and

tactile means, coupled to the membrane, for selectively contacting a touchscreen display at a desired location in response to a force exerted on the tactile means by a user, wherein the tactile means further includes a means for slidably contacting the touchscreen display along a pre-determined linear slot.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the membrane comprises a flexible and resilient material.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means comprises a translucent portion.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the membrane comprises a fiber optic plate.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means comprises a haptic structure configured to emit an audible sound.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means comprises a plurality of button structures disposed on the membrane, wherein the plurality of button structures implement a QWERTY keyboard.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a lighting device to selectively illuminate a portion of the apparatus.

19-22. (Canceled).

23. (New) A display overlay, comprising:

a flexible membrane;

a button structure disposed on one surface of the flexible membrane;

a nib corresponding to the button structure and disposed on another surface of the membrane, wherein the apparatus is configured to be operatively coupled to a the touchscreen display so that when a user applies a force to the button structure the nib contacts the touchscreen display so as to activate a virtual button being displayed by the touchscreen display; and

a redirector coupled to the flexible membrane, the redirector configured to change a direction of an infrared beam directed onto the redirector.

24. (New) The display overlay of claim 23, wherein the button structure includes buttons configured as a remote control.

25. (New) The display overview of claim 24, wherein the button structure includes buttons configured as at least one of a universal remote control or a television remote control.

26. (New) The display overlay of claim 23, wherein the redirector includes a fiber optic plate with a bend in optical fiber segments that form the fiber optic plate, the bend facilitating the change of direction of the infrared beam.